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Senator Calls U.S. Explanation Of Dominican Policy Weak

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the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, July 22—A Senate investigation has raised new doubt about the official reason given the United States for recent military intervention in the Dominican Republic.

Senator Eugene J. McCarthy (Dem.), Minnesota, told the Post-Dispatch that the inquiry has produced little evidence thus far to support Administration assertions that military action was needed to protect American lives and to prevent a possible Communist takeover.

McCarthy is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, investigating the United States' role in the Dominican revolution last April.

The United States sent a total of 21,800 troops to the Latin American nation in April and May. President Lyndon B. Johnson and other officials have said the action was essential for the safety of Americans in the Dominican Republic and to avoid a Communist seizure of power there.

In an interview, McCarthy said that testimony by top-ranking Administration officials had failed to convince him on either point.

He questioned the seriousness of the danger to Americans who were living in the Dominican Republic when the uprising began.

"We have been told that the revolutionaries assured many Americans that no harm was intended to them," he stated. Testimony indicates that rebels went among Americans to warn them of the fighting and to urge them to stay out of combat areas, he continued.

Further doubt is cast on the Administration argument by experience in other Latin American revolutions, McCarthy said. He noted that no American citizens had been killed in rebellions in Central and South America in the last 20 years. As a result, he said, there appeared little basis for expecting major danger in the Dominican Republic.

In McCarthy's opinion little evidence has been found to support the second major reason given by the Administration for American intervention. The danger of a Communist takeover in the Dominican Republic does not appear to have been imminent, he said.

In this connection, he continued, there has been no indication that Communists allegedly connected with the revolt commanded a mass following in the Caribbean nation.

He expressed doubt that Communists reported to have been connected with the rebellion ever were in a position where they might quickly have seized control, although he acknowledged that such a possibility might have developed later.

He said it was clear that the army people who initiated the coup in the Dominican Republic were not Communists.

"Only later, with some Communists joining was there any Communist involvement," he said.

He said that the strongest ar-

gument made so far by Administration spokesmen was that "the group attempting the coup did distribute arms and ammunition to the general populace and that the distribution was, to some extent, controlled by the Communists."

In closed hearings that began July 14, the Foreign Relations Committee has taken testimony from four top Administration officials: Under Secretary of State Thomas C. Mann, Central Intelligence Agency director William F. Raborn, deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance, and W. Tapley Bennett Jr., Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

MAERS: McCARTHY, EUGENE
GOVT 2-04 US
CIA 1-01
MIL: 4-02 (US/DOM. REP.)
NIL 4-02 Dom. Rep. / US